5

# BAKEMONOGATARI

OH!GREAT

Original Story:
NISIOISIN

Original Character
Design: VOFAN

Suruga Monkey

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ORIGINAL STORY:

NISIOISIN

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ORIGINAL CHARACTER
DESIGN: VOFAN

Enter Suruga Kanbaru, the biggest celebrity on campus. Though Koyomi Araragi had seen her as an entirely different type of person who lived in a different world from his own, it turns out that she has been stalking him for some reason. While trying to figure out why he is being stalked by Suruga, Koyomi is suddenly attacked by a mysterious figure in a raincoat that he takes to be an aberration. Koyomi then draws a connection between these incidents and ends up visiting Suruga's home to uncover the truth...

# MAIN CHARACTERS

## Hitagi Senjogahara

A girl whose weight was once stolen by a "crab." Though they were in different athletic clubs, she and Suruga had a junior-senior relationship in middle school.

## Koyomi Araragi

A boy who was attacked by a vampire. Currently dating Hitagi. He's suddenly being followed by Suruga for some reason.

## Suruga Kanbaru

The star and captain of the basketball team, as well as the biggest celebrity on campus. Now recuperating from an "injury."

## Mèmè Oshino

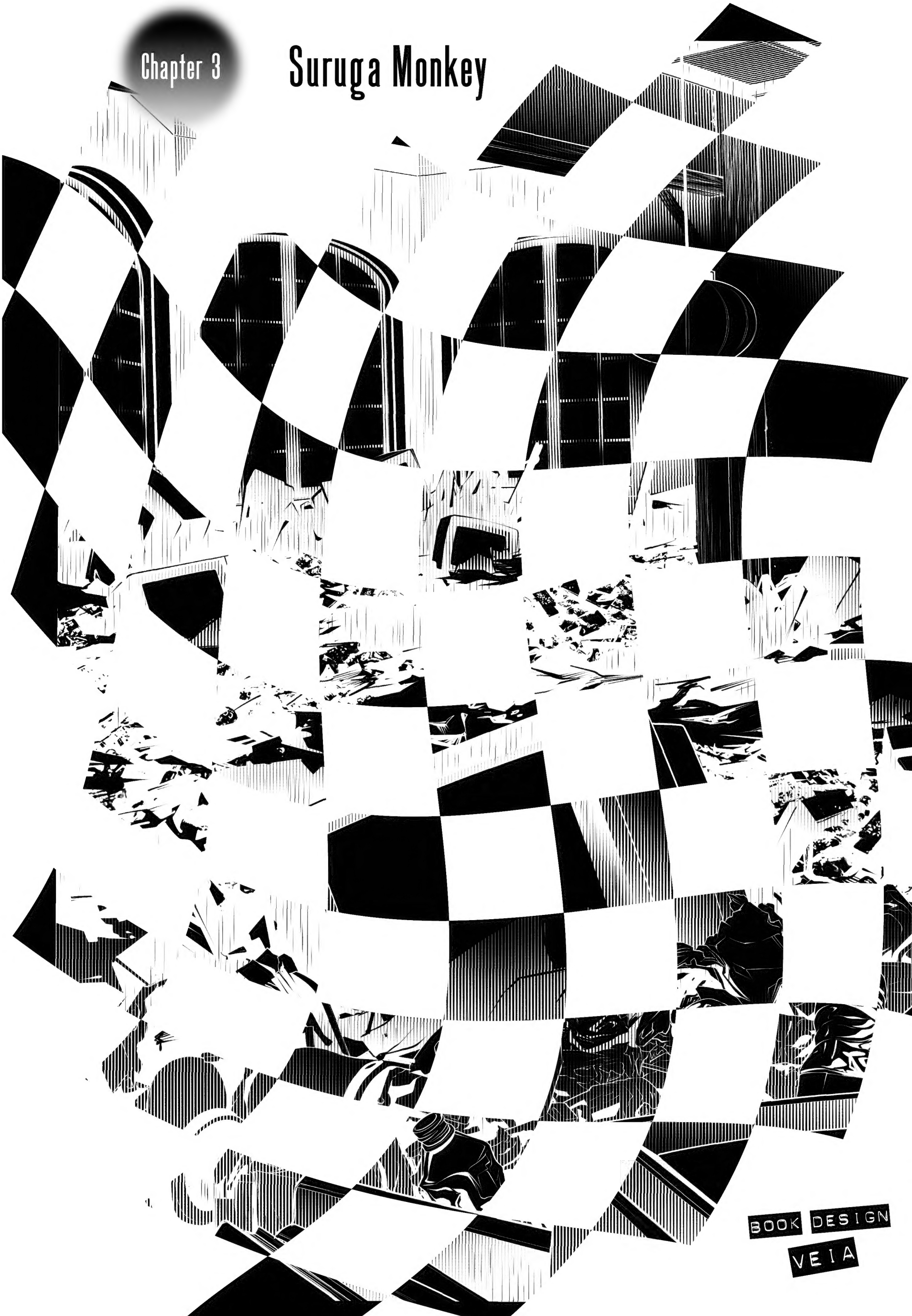
An expert on aberrations who Koyomi relies on whenever he has a problem. A shady adult who makes the ruins of a former cram school his home.

## Shinobu Oshino

The shadow of the vampire who once attacked Koyomi. Her existence is bound by her name, which was given to her by Oshino.

Chapter 3

# Suruga Monkey



Thanks for coming all this way, Araragi.

Make yourself at home.

...How do you expect me to do that in this huge house?

Okay.

This is my room.

Umm, let's see...

THOOMP

MONO

BAKE

CHIHAI

The bottle of tea I bought yesterday should be around here...

...Kan-baru.

I know this isn't the time for it, but...

Hear me out— I have a request for you.

Hm?

I'M MOVED BY YOUR HESITATION TO ENTER THE ROOM OF A GIRL YOU DON'T KNOW WELL, BUT WE CERTAINLY DO NOT HAVE TIME FOR A DISPLAY OF YOUR IMPRESSIVELY SENSITIVE NATURE!!

SURE THING! WHATEVER YOU WANT!! I WOULD NEVER TURN DOWN A REQUEST FROM YOU!!

I'll need a bunch of big garbage bags, too.

I just want an hour... No, thirty minutes... Just give me some time to clean this room...

Oh ...

...

I'M NOT TRYING TO BE CONSIDERATE! AND THAT'S THE KIND OF LINE YOU SAY AS A WAY TO BE MODEST WHEN YOU LET SOMEONE INTO A REASONABLY TIDY ROOM!

I see... No need to be so consid-erate.

Though I do apologize for the mess.

Three hours earlier.

Lunch break.

Hey, Kanbaru... do you have a second?

There's something I need to talk to you about.

THOK

THOK

THOK

Hello there, my senior Araragi.

Huh?

Why's he here?

What?

What...? A third-year?

Kanbaru simply said...

"In that case, please come home with me after school."

Okay, I'll show you the way.

SQUEE-KLIK SQUEE-KLIK SQUEE-KLIK

WHOOSH

If all we were going to do was talk...we could have done it anywhere.

In the hallway, an empty classroom, the athletic grounds, or even a fast food restaurant.

SHE'S SO FAST ...

But it seemed that there was some rationale for this.

Kanbaru had "reasons" for wanting to talk to me in her home.

Oh, yeah.

I'm not so great at talking, so I'm not sure where to even start from...

SKREECH

Oop!

NWAHHH?!

SCREEE

BOW

But let me first apologize for what happened last night.

I'm sorry.

...I didn't mean for that to happen.

...So it was you after all.

"After all"? How modest of you. You've already figured everything out, haven't you?

I think I know what this is. They say there are some boys who can identify a girl by the shape of her pelvis—this is like that, isn't it?

NOT EVEN CLOSE !!

She really did seem sorry...

At the very least, it didn't seem like an act.

*What **did** she mean to happen ...?*

*...But "I didn't mean for that to happen"? In that case...*

Present time. 4:30 PM.

Incredible, my senior Araragi!!

I had no idea that my floor mats were this color!!

Basketball is about the only thing I'm good at, so I'm pretty useless when it comes to keeping tidy!

SPARKLE

ぴか

ぴか

SPARKLE

Many thanks!

Once we're done talking, let's take a full day and—

No, I'll even stay over so we can *really* clean this room.

I'll bring liquid cleaner and stain remover... a full set of sup-plies...

So, Kan-baru,

you and Senjogahara used to be called the Valhalla Duo?

You know so much! I under-estimated you.

I thought I'd praised you as much as I could, but it looks like I still fell short.

My petty values could never suffice to measure your full greatness.

...I also heard how it came to be.

It's a really well thought-out alias.

Spelling things out might come off as annoying to someone as perceptive as you,

but, well... there's something I want you to see before I talk about me and Senjogahara.

I CAME UP WITH IT MYSELF!

ISN'T IT?!

What?

You did ...?

I haven't felt sorrow like this in some time... ...

What does this look like to you?

...

It's thinner than it was last night...

But it's clearly... *that same thing...*

A monkey's paw?

—An aberration.

Huh.

Of course! After all, it *is* impossible to measure just how keenly perceptive those eyes of yours are. It's as if your eyes work in a completely different way from my own—I'm in awe. A single glance was all it took for you to figure out what this is. It's simply amazing. There's no comparing the knowledge you possess to the mental resources of commonfolk like myself—so I guess there's no need for me to explain anything else.

NO, DON'T BE SO CONVINCED! I HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT A THING!

What're you saying?!

SLAP

To make so accurate a guess without actually knowing anything makes me believe you were chosen by some celestial being. I am awestruck by your ability to viscerally intuit the true nature of things. The more I learn about you, the more untouchable you feel.

The Monkey Paw theme has been used so many times that it's been spun off into different patterns across all kinds of media.

Really? That's the title of a short story by William Wymark Jacobs—"The Monkey's Paw."

I had no idea...

...

*It's fine for now.*

Yup.

...Um.
Can I touch it?

Oshino.

I don't think I'll be able to get anywhere with this unless I ask him for help.

That sketchy older dude.

I did come here to figure out *whether or not this would need to be discussed with a certain someone.*

...

Well... yeah. I know where this is going.

SQUISH

SQUISH

SQUISH

SQUISH

PEOPLE WILL GET A BAD IMPRESSION OF ME IF YOU SAY THINGS LIKE THAT! WHAT IF YOUR PARENTS HEARD YOU JUST NOW?!

STOP WITH THE WEIRD NOISES!

Well, you touched a weird spot.

AH!

AAH!

QUIVER

...MH!

NO...!

You don't need to worry about them. Not at all.

No worries there. That won't be an issue.

Oh.

Huh ?

Why is she making it sound like

she doesn't want me asking about her parents ...?

We are done talking here

But... there are also times when it won't—

No...

That's not quite how I should put it.

GROPE

GROPE

GROPE

As you can see, right now, it moves as I want it to.

WAIT, SO YOU WANT ME TO SEE YOU GROPING YOURSELF?!

It's more like...
***there are times when it moves contrary to how I want it to.***

I barely remember it.

In other words... it was me who attacked you last night.

It was definitely me, and yet...

It was like a waking dream, or some dreamlike state—it's not that I can't recall anything...

...but it felt like I was watching an old, black-and-white TV show...and I was unable to get involved.

A trance.

It was the same with Hanekawa.

Aberrations that possess the flesh have their way with your mind and body.

MYAHAHA

Of course, that's also why Hanekawa hardly remembers anything about what happened over Golden Week.

No...

I really don't know much myself.

...I see.

So it's called an "aberration." You sure know a lot.

But don't worry.

I'm not here to fight you.

I just thought that maybe I could help.

With your own issue, of course... but also with you and Senjogahara...

in all kinds of ways.

There's not much that can shock me.

Heh... Well, I'm used to dealing with this kind of thing.

If you ran away the moment I showed it to you, I would've felt more than a little hurt.

I'm fortunate you're so broadminded. To be honest, I didn't really want people seeing this arm. I'm still a girl at the end of the day, you know.

Let's go straight into it, then.

All right.

Ah.

Hm?

...

I'm a lesbian.

I was shocked.

...

WAAUGH

That knocked the wind out of my sails.

BOOM

HURK

HURK

No, no. Maybe this is how girls are these days. I need to be less serious about this— more liberal.

I'm a lesbian.

My emotions took a tumble, and yet—

Mm-hm.

Maybe I was a little too blunt. You are a man, after all. Allow me to correct myself.

Umm ...

Yeah ...

I see.

Gotcha.

THAT'S THE SAME THING!!

I'm a sapphist.

Hold on!

Ah!

GRIN

GRIN

...hasn't forgotten me, after all.

It seems that girl...

Yes...

What's going on here?!

What?

And she talked about "liquidating" her relationships—huh?

Senjogahara *did* call her "that girl"...

in middle school?

Is that why... they were the Valhalla Duo

Music: El Bimbo

チャラララララー

BWADAIDADADA

ツッタカツッタカツッタカツッタカ

MM-TSK-A-MM-TSK-A-MM-TSK-A-MM-TSK-A-

チャラララララー

ツッタカツッタカ

MM-TSK-A-MM-

TSK-A-MM-TSK-A-

TWITCH

TWITCH

TWITCH

To me, she was my perfect senior who I purely loved and admired.

I had a crush on her, but it was one-sided.

Oh, it wasn't like that.

I don't really understand her standards when it comes to candy versus gum...

. . . . . .

DOT

DOT

DOT

...Hm.

Umm ...?

Or in love?

But...

I was so captivated by her that I would have chewed her used gum if I had the chance.

I was even ready to die for her sake. Yes, you could say that I wanted her, dead or *in love.*

Not candy. Gum. You could say I was crazy for her.

The comic relief.

I think I know what kinda character you are...

...

PRETTY INSPIRED OF ME TO PLAY ON "ALIVE" AND "IN LOVE," IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF!

AH

THAT CAME OUT BETTER THAN EXPECTED, WOULDN'T YOU AGREE?!

MM!!

GRIP

THWAM

Four years ago.

Are you Kanbaru?

SKREEK
キュキュキュッ

キュキュッ
SKREEK

I've heard that you're quite fast. May I watch you play? I promise not to distract you.

"She's trouble."

A noble lady?

SHUDDER

but my first impression was simply...

Given that I'd revered her for so many years, what I said to myself then could be a type of betrayal,

Would you like to join the track team? It's not too late.

It was a pretty blatant case of head-hunting.

So what do you think?

Your legs are as impressive as they say.

Would you like to spend your adolescence with me, as friends and as rivals?

FWOOF

What is with her...?

...

AND WHAT'S WITH YOU?!

The two of you!

Sorry, pal, not today!!!

ZAKK

SST

Oh my. It's good to see that much energy from you.

It's fine, everyone. I love domesticating cute girls like her.

Maybe I was at an age where I wanted to reject authority ...

In any case, that's how I turned down Senjogahara's invitation.

No ...

It must have been some-thing else.

I had to do it.

She'd win me over otherwise.

I'd be taken in by her gravity.

THWAM

That possibility —that version of me—was something I feared.

THWAM

Practicing on your own this early in the morning?

I should have expected as much from you.

CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

Kanbaru,

let's have a contest.

If I win, you join the track team. Understand?

You won't back down from a challenge. I know that's the type of girl you are.

...

So are you going to join the basketball team if I win?

AH!

THAT'S MORE LIKE THE SENJO-GAHARA I KNOW!

Well, I'll stop visiting the basketball team every day.

Your plan was to visit every day?!

Why?

Huh?

Wh-Whaa?!

SWISH

Free throws.

Ten each, whoever lands more wins.

But ...

...it was no good.

My heart was already hers.

It had already surrendered to that senior of mine.

I know what you mean. Who wouldn't fall for her after seeing her panties in the open like that?

EXACTLY. I KNEW I COULD COUNT ON YOU TO GET IT.

WHUMP

ゴトッ

It seems you've won, Kanbaru.

That was on purpose, wasn't it?

...

It was a good bout. Well, then...

I will accept my defeat with grace and give up on you.

She went out of her way to challenge me to a contest where she'd be at a disadvantage.

Because by losing in front of the whole school...

Your plan... was to do this from the start!

Whatever could you be talking about?

Good day.

When she did that, Senjogahara...

...she protected me.

If the big boss backed out *fair and square*...

...her underlings couldn't lay a finger on Kanbaru. Doing so would betray their boss.

Yeah... You were a first-year student who'd just insulted the big boss of all seniors.

You could expect to get punished on the spot for something like that. You could've even been forced to quit the basketball team.

—So that's why.

*So the real Senjogahara... is even capable of being considerate...*

I'M BAD AT STUDYING, AND NAOETSU HIGH IS A HARD SCHOOL TO GET INTO, BUT I GOT IN BECAUSE OF HER.

I WORKED MYSELF TO DEATH SO I COULD GO TO THE SAME SCHOOL AS SENJOGAHARA... AND TELL HER HOW I FELT.

And then.

I came to regret it.

And there she stood, my senior Senjogahara, with a happy smile on her face that I'd never seen before.

I heard she had a boy-friend.

I had to see for myself. I couldn't help it.

...

*I wonder which shower of verbal abuse you saw...*

And grew some more ...

That envy grew, and grew ...

I felt so much envy.

But there was no end in sight for my envy.

And at one point ...

...I tried to rethink things.

Whoa!

...Which is why I made a wish.

To this Monkey's Paw.

The Monkey's Paw grants its owner's wishes.

But never in the way its owner intends.

...you'll soon realize that it's a well-made story of horror and aberrations.

When you hear the story of "The Monkey's Paw"...

A classic by William Wymark Jacobs.

QUALITY STANDARD
Y SAUCE
KICK-KO-MAN
Oh. Well, that's good.
Well, I figure we can make it there before dark.
Is this Mèmè Oshino person's home far?
My senior Araragi.
VWOOSH

The Monkey's Paw grants three wishes.

But it seems...

...that it was made by an old, miracle-working ascetic in India.

Once it gets dark...

...I imagine *this guy* will start moving again.

It was an item made to teach humans that they must live according to their fate.

It serves as a lesson that calamity will befall any who try to oppose what is meant to be.

The next day, the company takes a dip, causing the higher ups to be fired.

Fraudulent Accounting
Tax Evasion
Layoffs
Excessive Debts
In the red

As a result, you rise up in the organization to fill their place in a company on the verge of bankruptcy.

For example, you might wish to rise in your company's ranks.

The Monkey's Paw then grants that wish.

You see ...

I noticed Senjogahara had changed as soon as I began high school.

That's how it goes.

And the next day, your entire family dies in an accident, causing you to earn a wind-fall insurance payment... and so on.

You might wish for a great fortune.

She'd become a completely different person.

I loved her more than anyone else, so it's only natural that I would notice...

But I don't know ...

Somehow, I thought I could fix it.

Maybe I couldn't get rid of the problem...

But even so, I thought I could at least soothe her soul by staying by her side.

That's what I had in mind.

KA-SHLINK

But I was soundly rejected.

...A stapler.

I don't think of you as a friend...

...or even as my junior. Not now, nor did I ever.

**She said,**
"Being friends with a talented junior like you increases my popularity—it was all for show."

Her goal... was to hurt me.

She wanted to drive me away— that was her ultimate goal.

What an awful thing to say...

I was happy that she called me a talented junior, though.

HMM HMM ♪

GOD, YOU'RE POSITIVE!

THROUGH AND THROUGH!

So...

I went away.

In that moment, I learned just how powerless... and conceited I was.

Senjogahara simply...*didn't want anyone near her.*

BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT SHE WANTED FROM ME.

IT WAS HER ONE AND ONLY WISH.

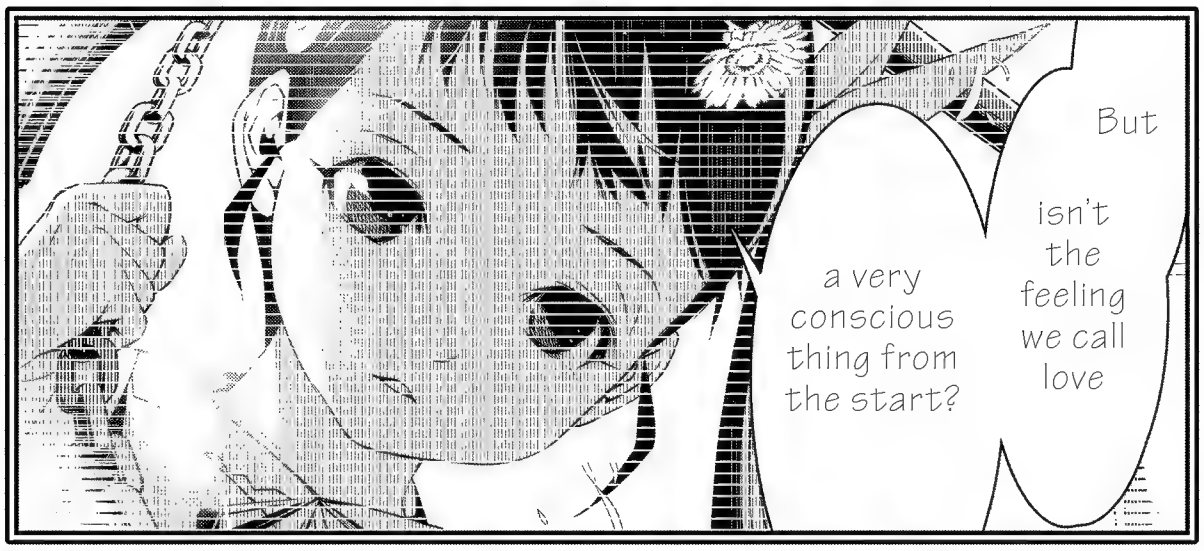
You ...

Whatever it takes—as long as it would grant Senjogahara's wish and put her mind at ease...

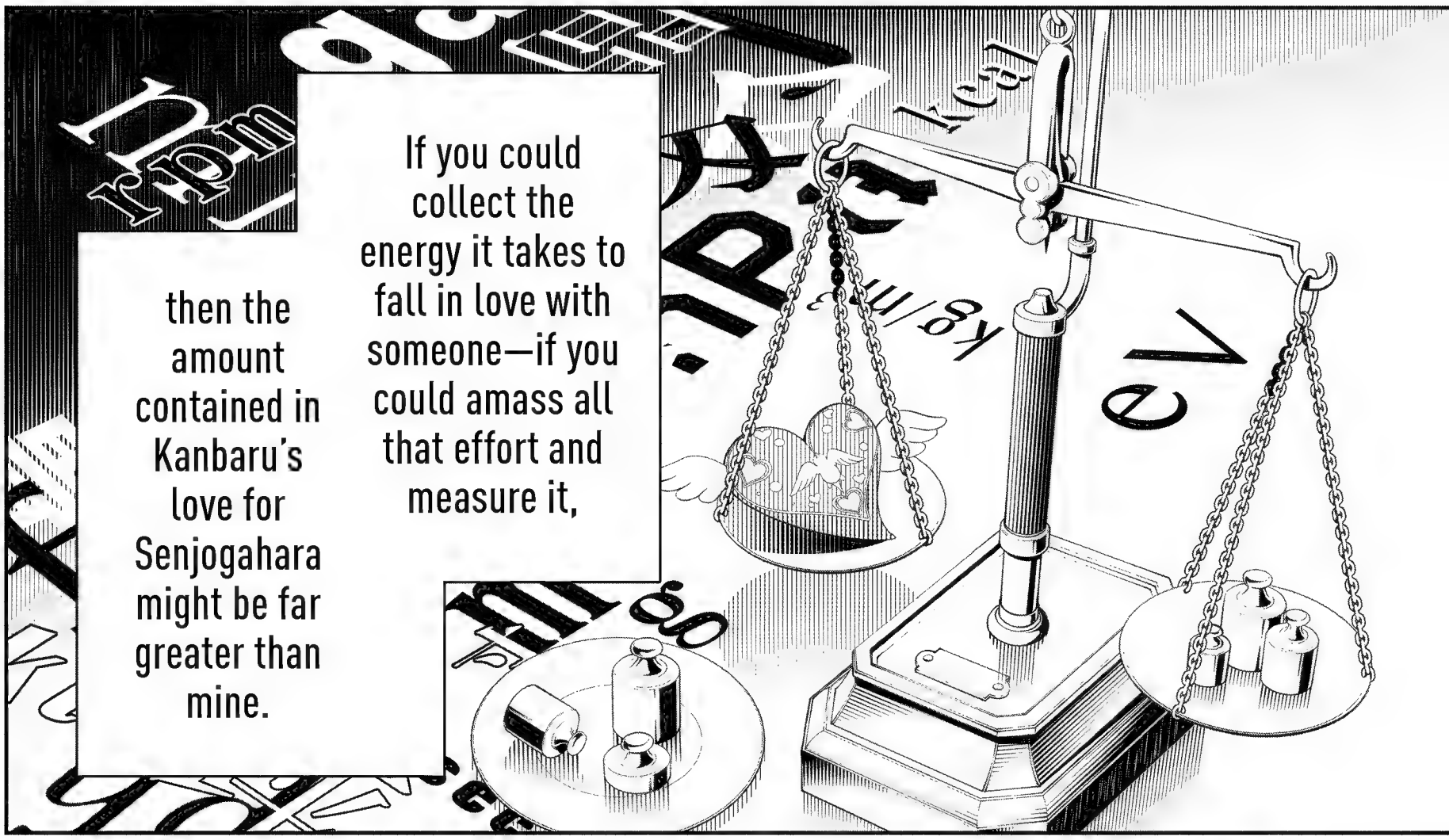
If Senjogahara could be saved by Kanbaru "not doing anything at all" then she'd do all that she could to that end.

Kanbaru said that she took all kinds of steps to stay away from Senjogahara.

She was serious.




It was clear from the lengths she went to.


If you could collect the energy it takes to fall in love with someone—if you could amass all that effort and measure it, then the amount contained in Kanbaru's love for Senjogahara might be far greater than mine.

The distances we covered were the same...

...but we had opposite results.

This feels...

...oddly uncom-fortable.

I feel guilty.

So when I heard that you two were going out...

...I was jealous of you and disappointed in her.

Why didn't she want me?

Is it because I'm a woman?

Maybe she didn't need friends or juniors, but wanted a lover?

And if it was a lover she wanted—
if that was the case...
Then what's so bad about me?

That's why she made the wish...

That's how she tells it.

...to this "Monkey's Paw."

They say the Monkey's Paw grants its owner's wishes.

But it will never be done in the way its owner intends.

In other words, this Monkey's Paw aberration...

...seems to be trying to grant Kanbaru's wish by slaughtering me.

I respect you from the bottom of my heart, my senior Araragi.

But ...

Please believe me when I say this...

I respect you because you did the thing I tried so very hard to do but failed to accomplish.

And you did it all like it was the most natural thing in the world.

Thank you, my senior Araragi.

For saving Senjo-gahara.

I mean it.

Thank you so much.

Now then, my senior Araragi...

There's one thing I want to ask you.

...

Er, no... I just...

Hm?

What part...?

What part of Senjo-gahara... attracted you to her?

Er... well.

...

Why're you asking something like that, Kanbaru?

What was it that made you think you wanted to go out with her?

SKREE

RESIDENTIAL AREA EXCLUDED

30

You'd barely had a proper conversation with her until the other day, right?

Well.

In other words.

And this is just a hypo-thetical.

But hypo-thetically speaking...

IF IT'S JUST HER BODY THAT YOU'RE AFTER...

...I THINK I COULD TAKE HER PLACE.

...

YOU'RE REALLY GOING TO SAY THAT ABOUT YOURSELF OUT LOUD?!

I THINK I'M PRETTY CUTE.

I'm ready to do this, you know.

Even right here and right now would be fine with me.

All you have to do is ask. Any time and any place, and I'll be the bottom to your top.

GROPE

GROPE

GROPE

BOTTOM?! TOP?!

AND YOU KNOW WE'RE IN PUBLIC RIGHT NOW!!

WHY DO I HAVE TO WANT SOMETHING LIKE THAT?!

I'd like to save my maidenhood for Senjogahara,

SQUISH

SQUISH

SQUISH

so my relationship with you would be a BL thing on the side.

BL?

ON THE SIDE?!

LISTEN, THAT'S ENOUGH! WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT THIS ANYMORE!

...Jeez.

NO ENTRY

What?

Sub?! Huh?!

I'm really more of a sub, though, so I can't really top.

I've been waiting so long that I nearly fell asleep, Araragi.

Yeah.

I noticed, okay?!

I did notice a bunch of *those books* scattered around!

When I was cleaning up Kanbaru's room...

*I pretended not to see it all!*

*I went out of my way to not mention it, though!*

YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE A HARD TIME IN SOCIETY FROM NOW ON.

IF YOU CAN'T ENJOY TALKING SMUT WITH YOUR FEMALE JUNIOR,

OH, COME ON. GIRLS ARE INTERESTED IN RAUNCHY THINGS, TOO.

I DON'T THINK THAT'S WHAT WE WERE TALKING ABOUT?!

GROPE GROPE GROPE

All right. Then let's go back to the topic of you being a briefs guy or a boxers guy.

Hm ?

Then was it whether or not I wear panties under my bike shorts ?

BLOOP

TH-THEN THOSE BIKE SHORTS PEEKING OUT FROM UNDER YOUR SKIRT ARE...!

Even if that *is* the case, why be shocked?

Bike shorts were originally designed as a form of under-wear.

# DO YOU NOT, MISS KANBARU?!

GROPE GROPE

NO! IT'S THE PERVERTED BEHAVIOR OF AN EXHIBI-TIONIST!

Hm. Yes, I suppose you could say that, but just think of it as a stylish gift from a sporty girl.

ALL THE MORE SO THEN! YOU MEAN YOU'RE WALKING AROUND WITH YOUR UNDER-WEAR OUT FOR THE WORLD TO SEE?!

Oh, now I remember.

We were talking about whether I could be a substitute for Senjogahara.

HOLD ON! DON'T REWIND THE CONVERSATION AND LEAVE THE QUESTION UNANSWERED!

YOU NEED TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT! ARE YOU OR AREN'T YOU WEARING SOMETHING UNDERNEATH?! ARE YOU AN EXHIBITIONIST OR A SPORTY GIRL?!

Okay, well, how about we look at it this way?

I'm a sporty girl to those who see me as a sporty girl, and an exhibitionist to those who see me as an exhibitionist —okay?

THAT KIND OF LINE STOPS BEING COOL ONCE YOU GET OUT OF MIDDLE SCHOOL, OKAY?!

SWOOSH

WUHH ?!

Hm?

Oh... Her name's Shinobu, and...um...

Well... how should I put this...?

H-

Hey, Araragi ?

What was with... *that* girl?

SHE WAS SUPER FREAKING CUTE!!

SHIIINE

I WANT TO HOLD HER IN MY ARMS!! NO, I WANT HER TO HOLD ME IN HERS!!

YOU FALL FOR ANYONE, DON'T YOU?!

TODAY'S TOP SMILE

WHAT'S WITH THAT POSE?!

WHAT WERE YOU GETTING READY TO DO?!

AWW...

SLUMP

TODAY'S TOP DISAPPOINTED FACE

So Senjogahara wasn't the only girl she had her eyes on...?

And she even likes the younger ones, too...

You ought to stay away from that one ...!

Huh ...?

Was this entrance always here?

It's right in front of the station, which should place it in a good spot... *but no one pays any attention to it.*

Now that I think about it...there's something strange about this whole building...

Oshino.

You have to shift how people understand things—just a tiny little bit.

Their perspective. Their outlook. Their position.

The slightest change in angle can turn something evident into something invisible.

Just think of it as a technique that applies the same idea.

Mayoi Hachikuji, was it?

Didn't you learn that before? You know, from that little girl.

*So, this place itself is like an aberration...*

*A "barrier," huh...?*

and for those who think it's not there— it isn't.

It's there for those who think it is,

Shut up. Don't keep spouting the same lines.

More importantly, you've brought yet another girl with you. It's a new one every time we meet, huh?

How do you write that again? Kanbaru as in "god" and "plains" ...?

What about the "Suruga" part, then?

HELLO! IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU!!

I'M SURUGA KANBARU!!

?

Ah, Suruga-toi. Of course, of course...

KRAK
コキ

Suruga as in "Suruga-toi."

...Don't use torture to explain how to write your name...

It's something that I'd love to undergo once in my life.

How could all of that apply to any one person?

So she's a sapphist, a BL fan, an exhibitionist, a pedo, and a masochist ...?

Suruga-toi

SPINS

WHIPS

WEIGHT

An Edo-period torture technique.

You a leftie, Missy?

You wear your wrist-watch on your right arm, right, Araragi?

No one's enough of a contrarian to wear a watch on their right arm while being right-handed, after all!

That's right! Just like my senior Araragi!

Huh ?

...

Looks like I'm a contrarian.

Let's start from the beginning... It doesn't seem like a very happy story, though.

Stories about arms never are, in my experience. Especially...

...if it's your left hand.

This...

...is something my mother left me.

It was given to me when I was in third grade.

Apparently it had been handed down for generations on her side of the family.

MERGE AHEAD

MERGE

MERGE

A few days later,

my mother passed away in a car crash with my father.

It was almost as if she had predicted something would happen.

Timed as though she knew in advance.

Then,

I was taken in by my grandparents on my father's side. They were wonderful people, but...

That's what she told us.

Kanbaru was bullied after transferring to her new school.

She told us that she was also teased for being slow and unathletic ...

Huh? Whaaa ?!

I know I talk like this now, but I had an awful accent back then.

I had my own issues, too. I often had my parents on my mind, after all.

THWAP

—My mother...

She never told me not to open it.

BE MORE SERIOUS!

What language are you speaking?

DUMMY

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING

Learn to run!

...she said she had a "dream."
That day...

It didn't matter what the first wish was.

It's not like I really believed it would work or anything...

I guess I was just checking it out—I treated it lightly, like a horoscope in a magazine.

"I want to be able to run faster."

All four of them... were absent the next day.

I was terrified ...

ELEMENTARY FIELD DAY

...the results of your practice. ...careful about heat ...

In my dream, that monstrous left hand was assaulting students from my school.

It attacked the four students that were supposed to run the same race as me on field day.

...I'm sure you've figured out how this story ends, right?

Huh ...

And that's when I learned about Jacobs' "The Monkey's Paw."

I went to the library in a panic to find out what this mummified left hand was.

...I see.

"The Monkey's Paw."

My first wish to the Monkey's Paw was to be able to run faster.

...That experience sent chills down my spine... I was so glad I wished for something as trivial as that...

*Because my real wish...was going to be my second one...*

*Her second wish...?*

What that wish was—goes without saying, I think.

It had to have been related to the death of her parents, so—

# SHEOL

## The Revive

The curse of the Monkey's Paw! Parents back from hell after dying in an accident!

PG12

I don't think I should bring it up to her...

ドンドン BOOM BOOM

Open uuup ...

Suru-gaaa... We're baa-ack...

カタカタ TREMBLE カタカタ TREMBLE

It'd probably turn into something like this, but...

...

So... they didn't die?

Even though they were attacked by that monster ...?

...The four classmates who were attacked by the monster were fine...

...but only through sheer luck. They could have easily died that day.

I sealed the Monkey's Paw in its box even tighter than before, then stuffed it into the back of my closet.

There was no second or third wish, of course.

But, of course, that's not where the story ends.

Sekikawa
3-3

Shioya
3-3

Kanbaru
3-3

3

Sumi

Kasuga
3-3

Now there were five.

So... what do you think I did?

They put me in a different group with five people in it.

What do you think ...

...I should have done?

I ran.

I worked to become fast.

I ran and ran and ran, each and every day.

I did it to make sure that the same tragedy would never happen again.

KHAAH

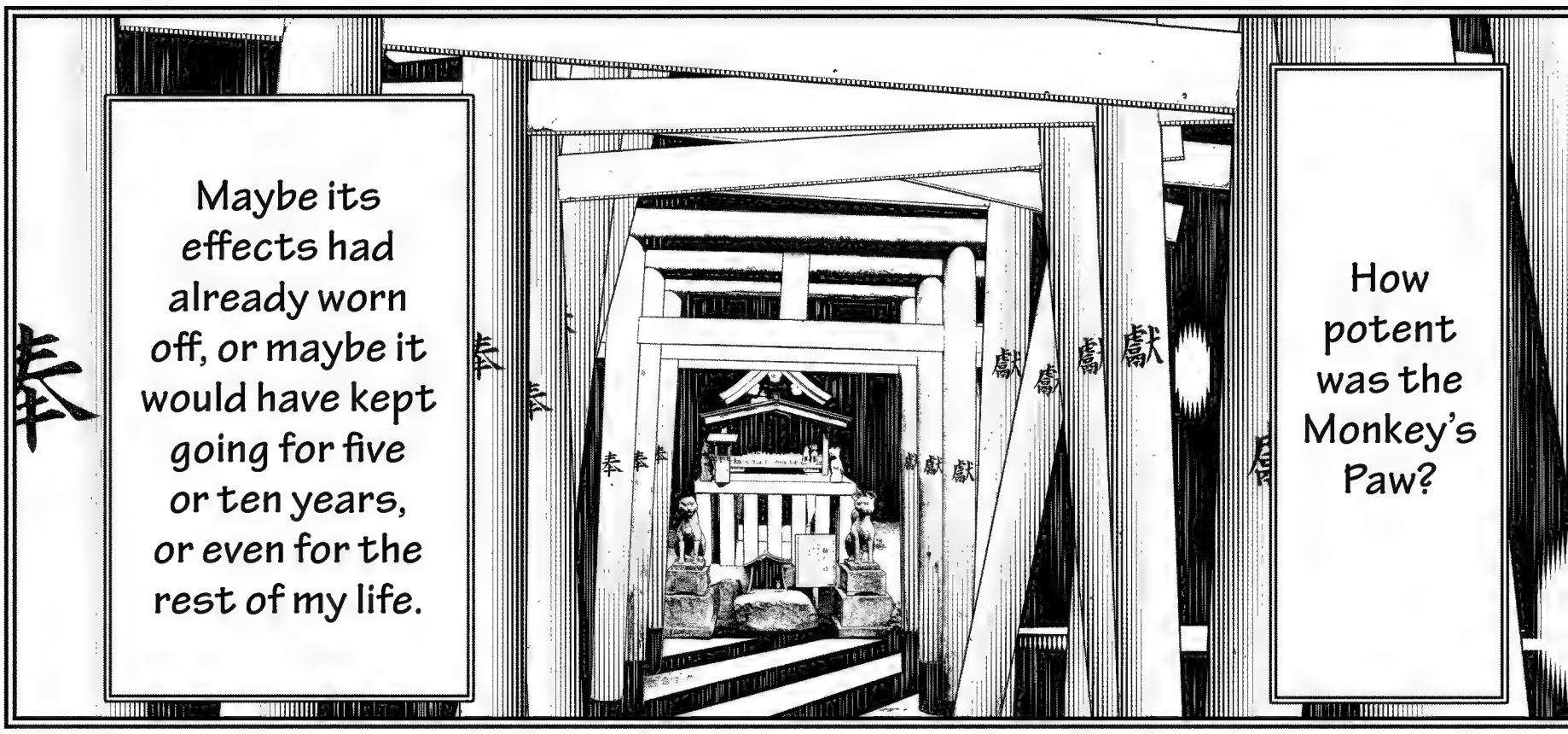
THD

It's not like I'd expect any other third-grade girls to train for field day, after all.

Fortunately, my efforts paid off...

I took first place in field day without any trouble.

But what should I have done *next*?


Maybe its effects had already worn off, or maybe it would have kept going for five or ten years, or even for the rest of my life.
How potent was the Monkey's Paw?

It's going to be bad if I ever lose a race, though...
At the very least, there's always the possibility of that being the case.
But... is it really possible to remain undefeated ...?

I picked basket-ball.

A limited area of space divided into rectangles.

28m

15m

R=6.75m

0.9m

4.3m

1.8m

3.6m

10.9m

My body might be small, but within these confines ...

...I can be faster than anyone else—

Or at least it'd be possible to work to make that happen.

So I made a deci-sion.

I was never going to lose to anyone in my life.

...

I was just moved to act by fear, and that's it.

People say I'm a sporty girl...but what I've told you is the truth of the matter.

She did, of course, find herself tempted by the Monkey's Paw many times after that—according to her.

Or when she was diligently studying in order to enter Naoetsu High.

CONGRATS ON MAKING IT TO THE NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

Girls' Basketball Team

Naoetsu High School Student Council

Like when she needed to face off against a powerhouse team in order to get her ticket to the nationals.

Or...when she was rejected by Senjogahara.

I was able to do that.

But... I managed to control myself.

but at some point it became my rock. It made me stronger.

I'd started playing basketball just to win,

She was telling me— to have the strength needed to overcome difficulties all on my own.

I think... this must be why my mother gave me the Monkey's Paw.

But then, I saw it.

My senior Senjo-gahara, with that smile on her face.

I ran straight home...

...and impulsively opened up the box that contained the Monkey's Paw...

Hm...?

...it was only down to the wrist before...

Was the arm always this long...? I'm pretty sure...

It's all a blank after that. By the time I came to ...

That's all I can recall.

BI-BEEP

docomo

AQUOS

SNAP

...

Now I understand.

That's the real reason... that Kanbaru was stalking me.

My arm had become a mon-key's.

Hasn't any-thing...

odd happened today...?

Tell me...

so she came to check up on me.

Kanbaru was concerned about my well-being...

I'm sure she didn't even want to come to school with that arm...

I had a "dream."

But then, last night...

...And that's what happened.

...

GLANCE

Missy.

Hey.

Oshino ?

How did you *get it into your head that it's a Monkey's Paw?*

TIK TOK TIK TOK カチコチ カチコチ

TIK TOK TIK TOK カチコチ カチコチ

Oh, yeah...

Faust, sure. Yeah, um... it's a detergent, right?

Wha?

Huh?

Araragi, are you familiar with *Faust*?

...

Hm?

I'm no scholar, so I haven't read it... But I do at least know the gist.

I...

What about you, Missy?

Okay, then, so you aren't.

I'm sure you're aware, but it even gave rise to the expression "Faustian impulse," which describes the drive and the intellectual desire to know and experience everything.
I won't go into details because I don't want to spoil it, but Part One is about his romance with the commoner Gretchen, while Part Two depicts the establishment of an ideal nation. It's generally read as a sort of philosophy or, I should say, a narrative about the pursuit of knowledge.
...sells his soul to a devil, Mephistopheles, in order to gain all knowledge—and that ought to do as far as an introduction goes.
Goethe is also famous for The Sorrows of Young Werther and Elective Affinities, but if we were to pick a single work he put his whole body and soul into, the unanimous answer would be Faust. The protagonist, Doctor Faust...
...it's a story split into two parts, Urfaust and Faust, A Fragment led to Faust, Part One and Part Two. It's a massive accomplishment that took him over sixty years to complete. I can only bow to it.
And... well, to give one of its features in simple terms...
As a masterpiece among masterpieces, this classic by Goethe has been loved for ages as stage plays and puppet plays in the past while also being well known for its film adaptation by none other than Svankmajer...
I see. The "Faustian impulse".
...Why does this junior of mine think that her senior who hasn't even heard of Faust to begin with would be aware of the term "Faustian impulse"...?

FLIP
FLIP
FLIP

The Monkey's Paw is a right hand.

That left hand is something else.

Hold on a sec, Oshino!

I can easily imagine you starting on a long monologue here, but does the Monkey's Paw have anything to do with this?!

Rainy Devil

It's a Rainy Devil.

A RAINY

DEVIL ...?!

Devil

Johann Faust. It's said he lived during the Renaissance period.

There are, of course, different theories about him... but stories about this person ended up turning into folklore.

*Faust* is based on a real person, y'know.

...

Doesn't know what to be surprised about.

WHAT? REALLY ?!

He was a wandering physician or magician who

actually sold his soul to the devil Mephisto-pheles.

And in exchange for all kinds of knowledge and experiences, he promised the devil to act as an enemy of Christians.

Look it up yourself. You can find the details in *Doctor Faustus*.

And the moment the contract expires, he meets a tragic end.

For twenty-four years he lives according to those "Faustian impulses" ...

Look... I don't mind that you're as frustratingly longwinded as ever...

Okay, still, Oshino ...

Huh... I didn't know...

It's not like you're saying it's not actually a Monkey's Paw, but the hand of the devil or something—

But so what? It's not as if you're saying this Rainy whatever is the arm of Mephistopheles, right?

It's hard to know which version is true, but I've never heard of one like that.

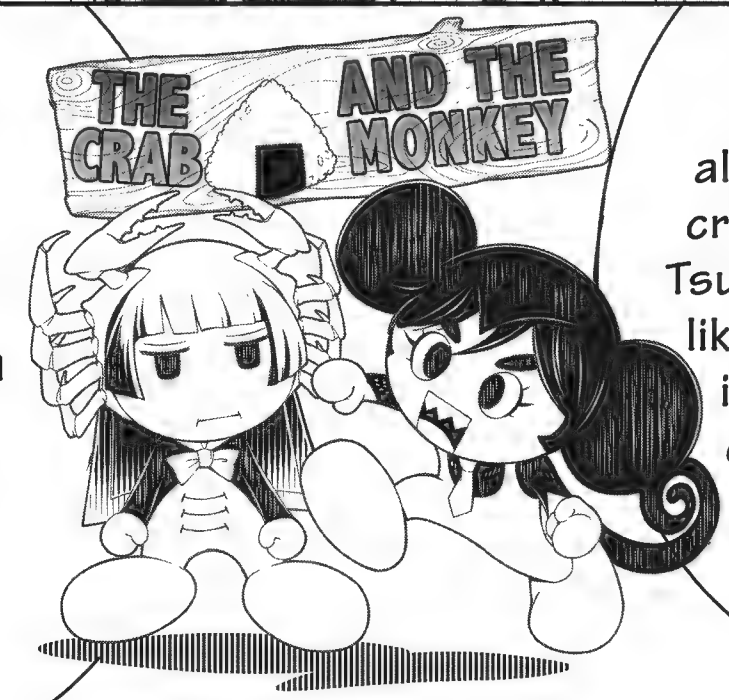
There've been so many versions since Jacobs.

You're on point today, Araragi.

Well, that's exactly it.

Your mom *never said it was a Monkey's Paw...* right?

But it was just a convenient explanation for you— wasn't it, Missy?




Placing a monkey alongside the crab for Missy Tsundere seems like a good fit— it'd be like the old Japanese folktale, y'know?

The Monkey's Paw combining with the owner's arm?

SKRATCH

SKRATCH

Or maybe I should say it felt good.

*Blaming* it on the Monkey's Paw—deciding that to be the case—was convenient to you.

Heh... That's not what I mean.

Why would I care about some kind of convenient play on words...?

No...

its owner intends"

...you said that, right?

...but it's never in the way

it grants its owner's wishes...

"They say

Heh.

That's what Oshino said.

Anyway, there are two easy solutions to this situation.

SNIP

SNIP

The first is to take that left arm...

Cut here

...that's turned into an aberration, and lop it off.

SNIP

Huh ?!

No!

Hold on, wait a second. Can you cut off just the part that belongs to this monkey— er, devil...?

names and notes regarding each part

HEAD

かみの毛がふくざつなのでうまくきりとろう。

RIGHT ARM

ke a fish reful not to

ST

when cutting with scissors

be careful not to lose any small parts

IGHT OOT

use force when pulling off

LEFT

Cut here

LEFT ARM

SCHWIP

It's not that convenient.

What? It's not a lizard's tail, Araragi.

Will her old arm grow back...?

A SMALL PRICE?! IT'S NOTHING BUT A CHEAP SOLUTION WITH A NASTY RESULT!!

DON'T BE SO NONCHALANT ABOUT THIS! THAT'S NOT EVEN FUNNY!!

I'm saying that a single arm is a small price to pay to solve our problem.

A-Ah... I really don't think I could ...

It'd be too much trouble, you know ...?

I'd say it's a fair price for you to pay, Missy.

You tried to kill another human being, all right?

No...!
That human being...that's me you're talking about, right?

She didn't wish for that, Oshino.

She only wanted to be by Senjogahara's side—

Just one question, Missy...

What happened to that left hand during your "first wish"?

Only to be by her side, eh?

Heh.

Huh?

Back then— did your left hand turn into that monster's as well?

*It's because your wish was granted that very night.*

*It should have.* You just didn't notice, that's all.

...

No...

Don't you find it odd? You wished to be faster, right?

How does roughing up your classmates make you any faster, Missy? Did that make your wish come true?

Items that grant wishes do so in exchange for misery.

But the only ones who ended up miserable here were the classmates she roughed up.

No... it's like we've said.

Oh...? Heh.

It's because the Monkey's Paw grants its owner's wishes in a way that's unintended...

No...!

It was her fault that her classmates got hurt...

so that's plenty reason to...

She didn't end in a state of misery at all.

A reason for her heart to ache?

How many more people do you have to hurt with your kindness? When will you be satisfied?

You're so kind it makes me sick, Araragi.

Class 3-3
Attendance Box

Just think about it normally.

You're in an unfamiliar place during a painful time in your life after your parents just died...

...and you just injured the little punks who were bullying you...

ABSENT

Chiho Ii

Ken Okad

Yukari Sato

Daisuke

Haruko Togawa

Taiyo Tsuda

Ai Takahashi

Makoto Fujii

Isn't the human response to that a quick and tidy...

"Serves them right"?

No...

I...!

I...

Hey.

...

Kan-baru ?!

But not on the flip side.

On the *surface*, her wish must have been to become faster.

I'm sure it wasn't a conscious decision.

Behind that wish was the unconscious desire to get back at her class-mates— to beat them all up.

The left hand saw through that

and *that wish* was granted.

It agrees to grant three wishes in exchange for a soul.

That's what you'd expect.

Since it's a devil.

Before

The left hand possessed you, acquired a body,

and granted your "wish"—

Then, when it detached from you...

...it did so with a bit of your soul in an amount equal to that of your wish, and grew into an arm.

After

W...

Wait ...!

I get the logic behind what you're saying,

but that would mean ...

What did I just tell you, Araragi? You're on point today. There's no need to get tied up into knots.

You actually arrived at the right answer for once.

You stole away her idol for yourself.

Feeling so much envy that she'd want to kill you—

and asking a devil to get rid of you is hardly bizarre.

"Only to be by her side"...? You're such a chump to believe your assailant's excuses, Araragi.

There's no way Missy's own intentions were absent from this. The intentions were all hers.

SKRATCH

What left hand has intentions?

Oh... so, about solving this situation.

There's still one other method to consider,

Ara-ragi.

If Missy over here slaughters you,

you see.

Oshino was right. I hadn't given it enough thought.

At one point, she tried to rethink things.

She was jealous... and that feeling grew and grew...

She didn't hide it.

And she said... that there was no end in sight for her envy.

She said it right to my face.

Which is why...
Ridiculous.
I couldn't be any more of a hypocrite.
But even then,
I wanted things to be like before...
I wanted her to be kind to me.
Even if it was selfish, I wanted to be by her side.
WELCOME
OBLIQUE STREET
I was jealous of you and disappointed in her—
I was disgusted by my own self.
Soothing her soul? Stepping away?
It was a lie, all of it.
It was all my ego.
It meant I didn't care as long as I was happy.
Was I hoping she'd praise me or something?
BAKEMONOGATARI

# BAKEMONOGATARI

5

Mmh ...

That ought to do it.

PAT PAT

PAT PAT

SHLURP SHLURP SHLURP

...

GRRT

GRRT

SHLURP SHLURP

PWOOP

SHLIP

If Kanbaru's wish to that left hand was only to be by Senjogahara's side...

...the fact that she was worried about my safety—

her assumption that I'd be in danger...

None of it makes sense.

It's not like she'd know how the left hand would grant her wish.

And she knew what it was.

Kan-baru must've uncon-sciously wished for something else.

*She's so aggressive. Just the mention of Kanbaru caused her to nearly take one of my eyes.*

*I bet even feeding Shinobu like that...*

*...would count as me cheating, knowing how Senjogahara sees things.*

KLANG

OW!

BOING

PWFFT

I can't get a good feel for my own body...

KRAK

I'm *practically* a vampire.

I just let her drink five times as much blood as usual... so now,

GRIND

GRIND

You know it's possible for Oshino to actually starve to death. But you don't have to worry about that because I'm over here giving you blood...

I was wondering why you were sulking here... I heard Oshino ate one more than he should of your Mister Donuts, right?

He said he even tearfully handed over a Pon de Ring.

GRIND

GRIND

GRIND

SLAP

Hey,
I've been waiting, Araragi.

You said to let her drink right to her limit, but I had trouble figuring out what that is...

Don't worry.
It's nothing to be sensitive about.

Her existence is bound by my name.

Letting her drink a little extra blood isn't going to give her back her true power as a demon.

As we waited for the sun to set and the moon to appear,

Oshino and I killed time by talking.

...Mm.

I guess I should go.

Kanbaru's probably waiting for me somewhere in this building.

Araragi... can I ask you just one question?

Why are you helping Missy?

Waiting ... to kill me.

There wasn't even a need for you to hear her out...let alone come running over to me.

...It's part of being alive.

There's always going to be someone you hate.

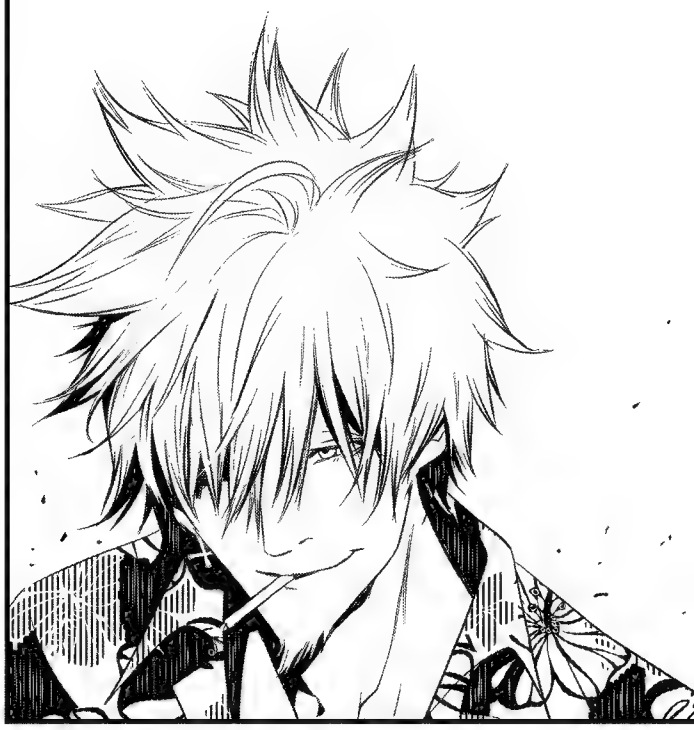
If Kanbaru feels that way because she pined for Senjogahara...

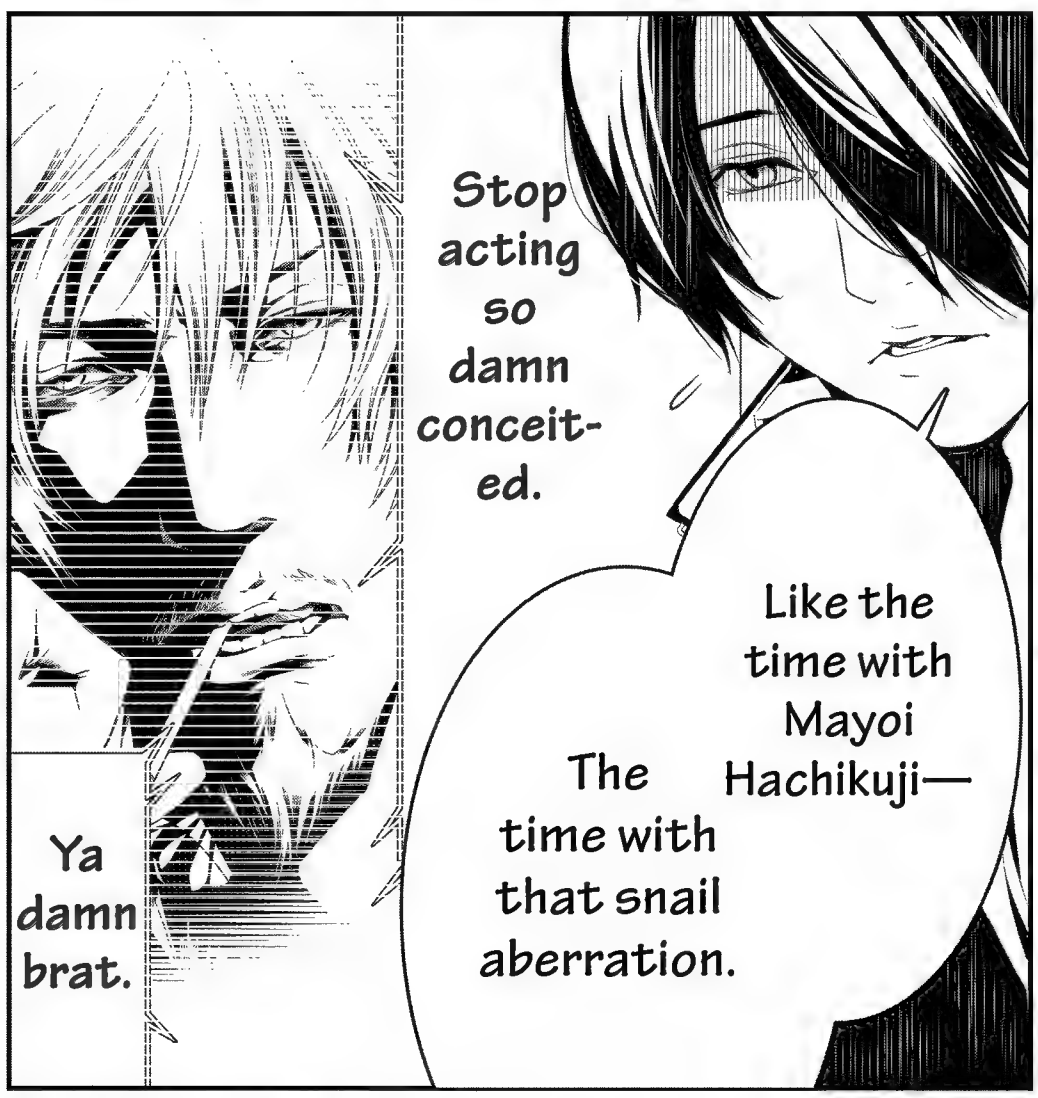
If that is the reason...

Well, then I can forgive her.

Oh. Well, if that's what you've decided, Araragi, then sure.

In that case, get in there and help Missy out.





but it's different this time, is all.
You were the one doing harm back then, Araragi—
...What am I always telling you? I'm a neutral party.

Araragi, listen up.

Right now, you should think of this building as a *cage* meant to trap you and Missy.

They'll be able to hear it and see it—*but if they don't care, it might as well have never happened.*

—Or so I'm told.

The "barrier" here makes it so no human on the outside will care about what happens inside.

You saw another one of those before you came here, right?

One of these.

I'm going to sleep.

Once you're done, you can leave.

Have fun butchering each other in there.

...

Sorry for the hassle.

Don't mention it.

Two hours earlier.

I guess you could say that this is a case of being able to argue your way out of anything.

That is what Oshino had told us.

He had explained that there were two *easy* solutions.

1. Cut off Kanbaru's arm.

2. Have Kanbaru kill me.

AAGH

ちょきん SNIP

AAGH

ちょきん SNIP

But ...

*If we don't go with something easy,*

that will give us a third.

It reads what's "inside" of us.

It loves negative human emotions, whether it's malice, hostility, enmity, or what have you.

Apparently, it's a very violent devil.

The Rainy Devil—

She'd pretty much be a devil at that point, apparently.

it'll probably take up to her shoulder... but that's as good as all of her.

In this case,

In exchange for three wishes, it takes one's body and soul.

*"So in that case."*

Just make it so the wish can't come true,

that's all.

It's a low-level fiend.

A creature who didn't even make it on the rankings.

The Rainy Devil may be a devil, but it's not like Mephisto-pheles.

It's not some sort of supreme being.

KRAK

BRRIP

PSSHT

In other words ...

It's the most standard measure you can take against an aberration that grants wishes.

*Wish for something that is completely impossible for that aberration to grant.*

It's like a product that can be returned within a certain period of time.

*...the contract gets voided.*

In other words...

*if Kanbaru's wish surpassed the capabilities of the Rainy Devil—if it could never hold up its side of the bargain...*

...will slink off without a word—according to Oshino.

That poor, inept devil who can't even do its job...

SH-KRK

KRAK KRAK

BSSHHHH-

KRAK

KRAK

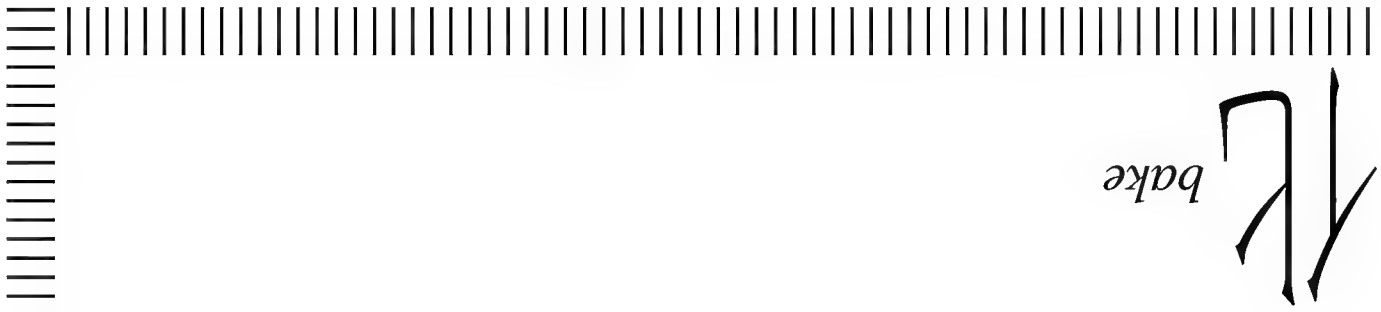
...just needed to be an entity that no mere Rainy Devil could kill.

Koyomi Araragi...

...in the blink of an eye.

You could kill that thing...

The version of you I saw during spring break could do it.



SURUGAmonkey

5

# 化 *bake*


物 *mono*

*SURUGAmonkey* 5

器 *gatari*

Hey.

HOOH

All right.

Before we get started, let's review.

...

How to perform an exorcism.

SPLAT
Whoa!
According to Oshino, an authentic exorcism is a major affair that takes lots of time and effort.
SHWOOP
Even if I gave Shinobu as much blood as possible, my vampire powers still have their limits.

ーイヨシヨヲ

BOOM

SQUISH

So soft!

Sorry, Kanbaru.

But, you're only facing the *left hand* of that Rainy Devil.

When Oshino said that the version of me from spring break could defeat the Rainy Devil in the blink of an eye, he was talking about me when I fought as a full-blown vampire. At most, I only have a tenth as much strength now—and even saying that is being overconfident, apparently.

KA-KRSH

KLONG

THK

THK

THK

BWOOSH

TWIRL

BWOOSH

And it's got the dead weight of an entire person to boot.

SKURRY

SKURRY

SKURRY

He said the Rainy Devil is a low-level fiend.

A devil who wouldn't even make it on the rankings—something like a familiar.

I'd have no chance against the whole thing,

but under "these conditions," I had what it took—no, way more than what it took—*far beyond* what it took to win, Oshino declared.

SKURRY

SKURRY

"Gaen"—apparently, that was Missy's mother's maiden name.

That seems to be the issue here.

A mummified devil is actually quite a feat.

SWOOSH

Personally, I'm curious about the "remaining parts"... We're lucky it's just the left hand.

THOKK

KLONG

SNAP

KRAK

BOOM

Because it was just a left hand,

Kanbaru was able to take this devil...

...and stop it from fulfilling her unconscious wish—her "true wish" of wanting to eliminate me—or so I'm told.

Well, the skills test is coming up

and that's giving me a head-ache.

In fact, I'm going to a study session today.

A study session?

You're talking about my senior Senjogahara.

RIGHT?

SHR

Well, I'll be off, my senior Araragi.

May fortune smile on you!

But,

Kanbaru found out.

She knew that the rumor of Senjogahara and I dating—

the rumor she didn't want to believe—

was, in fact, true.

It was a convenient excuse for her fragile psyche. She could then say she didn't *mean* to attack me.

Those words must have been crucial to Kanbaru.

The Monkey's Paw grants wishes in ways "its owner doesn't intend."

So, the devil found an opening and wormed its way into her heart.

Ara-ragi.

Oshino didn't put it that way, of course. He thoroughly despised that kind of spoiled thinking.

I bet you're always hearing about how much of a good, kind person you are.

And not just from me.

It's the kind of thing you say to someone who doesn't have a personality. Who wants to hear that again and again?

CRUMBLE

KRAK KRAK

KRAK

That's right. This isn't kindness.

It's more like...an underhanded calculation.

A scheming persistence.

FSSSHHH

DRIP

DRIP

You've got it wrong,

Oshino.

Solving the issue of Kanbaru's aberration—

In the end,

I would be saving my own life, first and foremost.

Kanbaru would of course be saved, too.

This might sound like I'm taking advantage of her gratitude...

...but it would also mean that Kanbaru has to listen to my wish.

That was her wish too, after all.

FWISH

クイ

クイッ FWISH

I wanted her to figure out a way to make up with Senjogahara.

If they went back to the way they were when people still called them the Valhalla Duo, that would warm the heart of the more tundra-than-tsundere Senjogahara. And then...

I JUST THOUGHT I MIGHT AS WELL MAKE YOU DINNER, SINCE YOU DID GO OUT OF YOUR WAY TO STICK YOUR NOSE IN MY BUSINESS, IS ALL.

D-DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA HERE. IT'S NOT LIKE I'M NOT GRATEFUL TO YOU OR ANYTHING!

Smelt

I can't even begin to express just how badly I want to see her like that.

I want to see that...!!

QUIVER

QUIVER

who would fit some template and react in such a stereo-typical way.

Not that I imagine her to be the type of woman

EBI-TEN
OBA
IKA-TEN
KABOCYA-TEN
SHISHITOU
KAKIAGE
RENCON
R18
R20
R25
R30
100/1%
TENPRA 976 01
PENCIL ALLOWANCE 0.5mm JAPAN

THWOOMP

Huh ?

...!

Ngh ?

Bfft !

URK!

BLURGH

Just now ...

I...

dodged that... didn't I?

NO TRESPASSING

NO TRESPASSING

NO TRESPASSING

DRIBBLE

SPLAT

SPLAT

NGNOOM

STOMP

SPLURCH

It feels like...

...she's much...

...faster than yesterday...!!

Why? Why... can't I dodge her?!

Dammit ...!

THWOKK

BA-KRAK

Ngh ...?

Agh!

SPLATCH
SKREE
Sneak-
ers.
Not.
TWTCH
Rubber
boots
...!!
GCHHT
THP
GCHHT
AAAAA
AAGH
!

SGRRP

I'd be able to dodge her based on the sound that her boots made with each step. That's what should have happened!!

No, even if I couldn't read them all,

My abilities have been enhanced in all kinds of ways, by several degrees, thanks to Shinobu.

If this "Raincoat" here was the same as yesterday, I would be able to read every one of her movements.

A few hours earlier.

Do I need to bring this raincoat with me?

My senior Araragi.

Oh... Right... It happened when we left Kanbaru's home...!!

Let's bring anything of interest and have Oshino look at it all.

Yeah, it might end up helping us out somehow.

はっはっはっ HAHAHAHA

Oh! It's just that, I might have worn this raincoat with nothing underneath !

I'm the type of person who sleeps in the buff, you know!

SNIFF くん

SNIFF くん

すんすん HUFF HUFF

...

Then what kind of smell are you checking for?!

Wait, hold on!

I need to check if I'm going to let someone else see it.

God, I'm such an idiot.

that I completely forgot about the rubber boots sitting there in the entrance...!

I was so distracted by that stupid interaction

NO TRESPASSING

TRESPASSING

She still only attacks in one way.

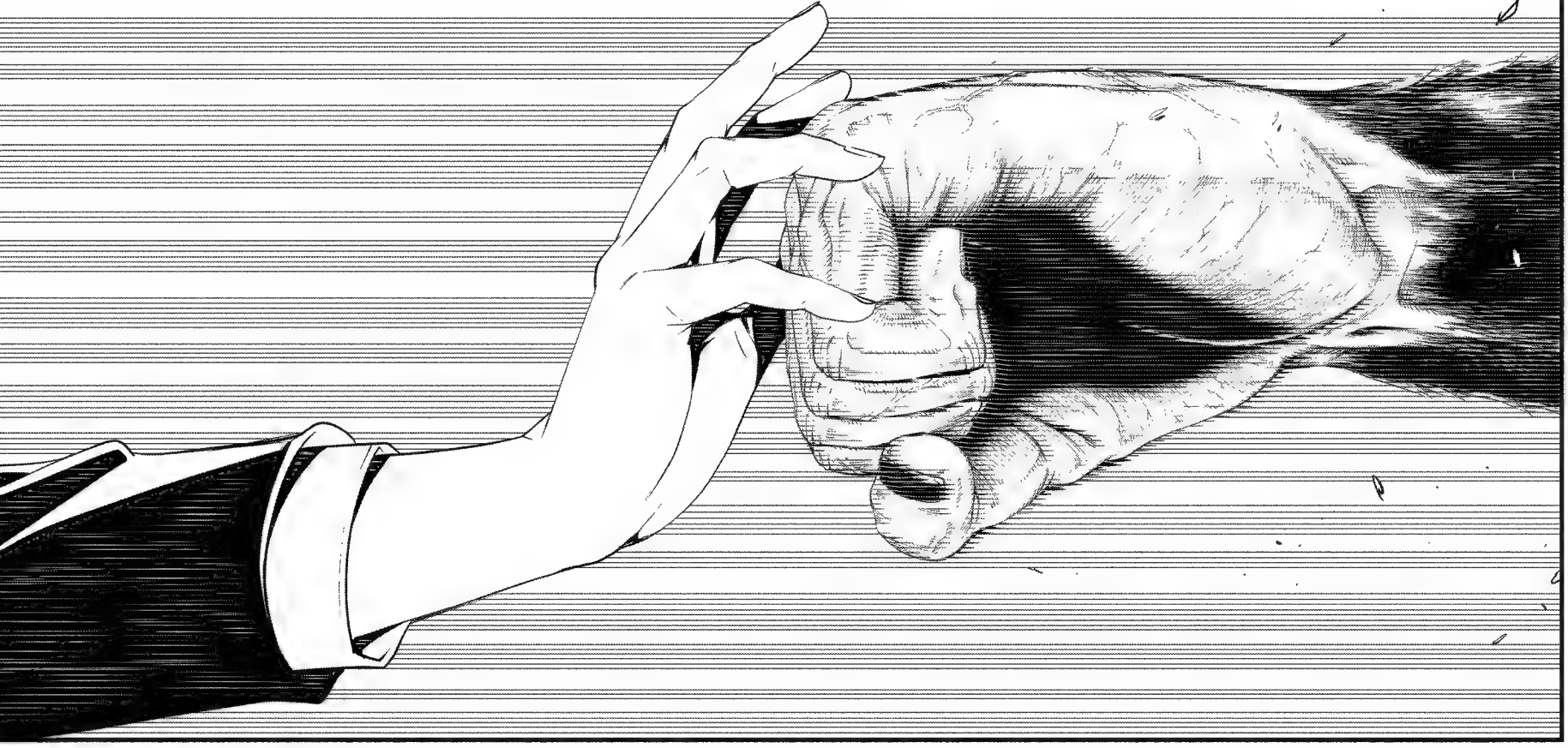
It's fine.

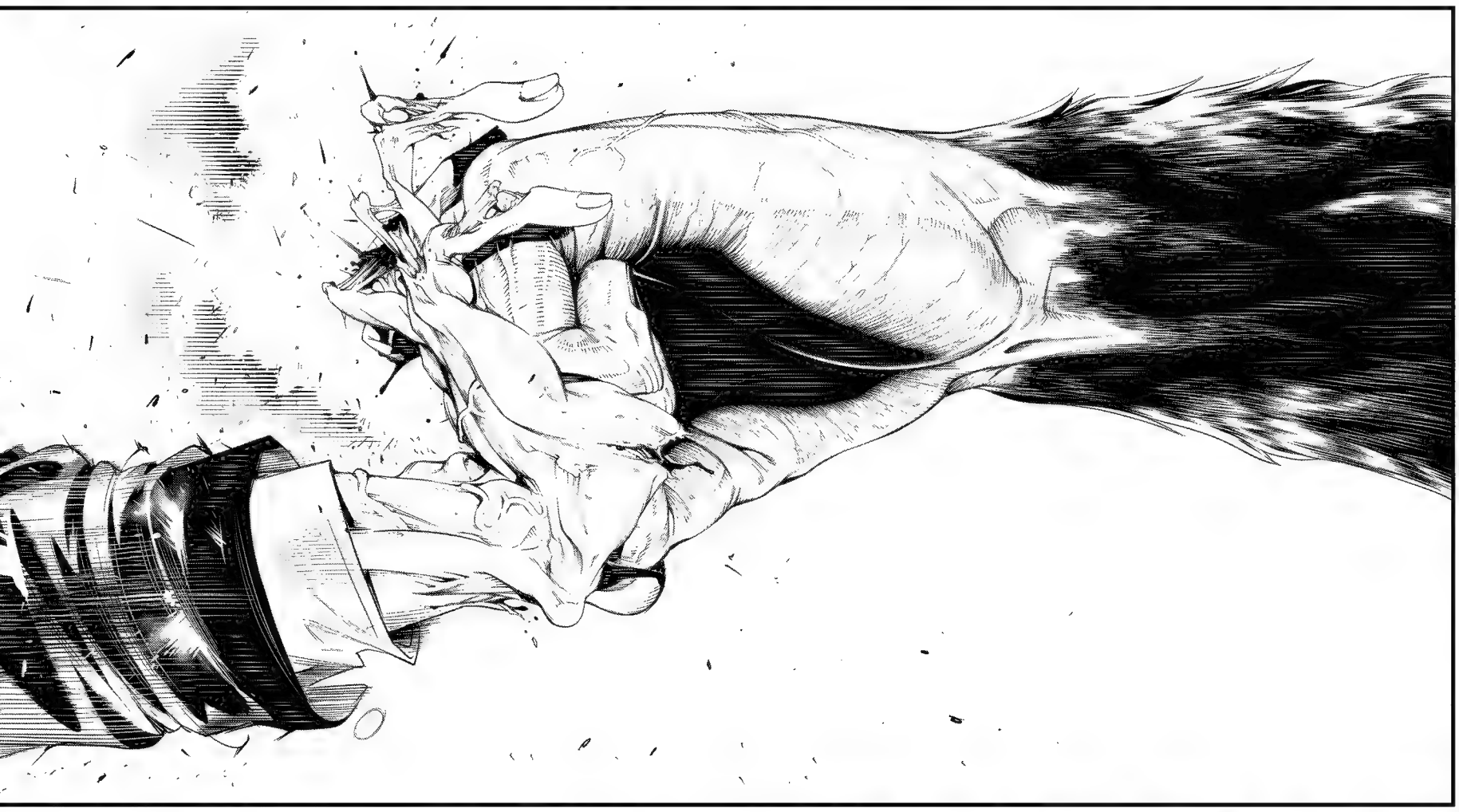
I never give up a good chance to be wrong.

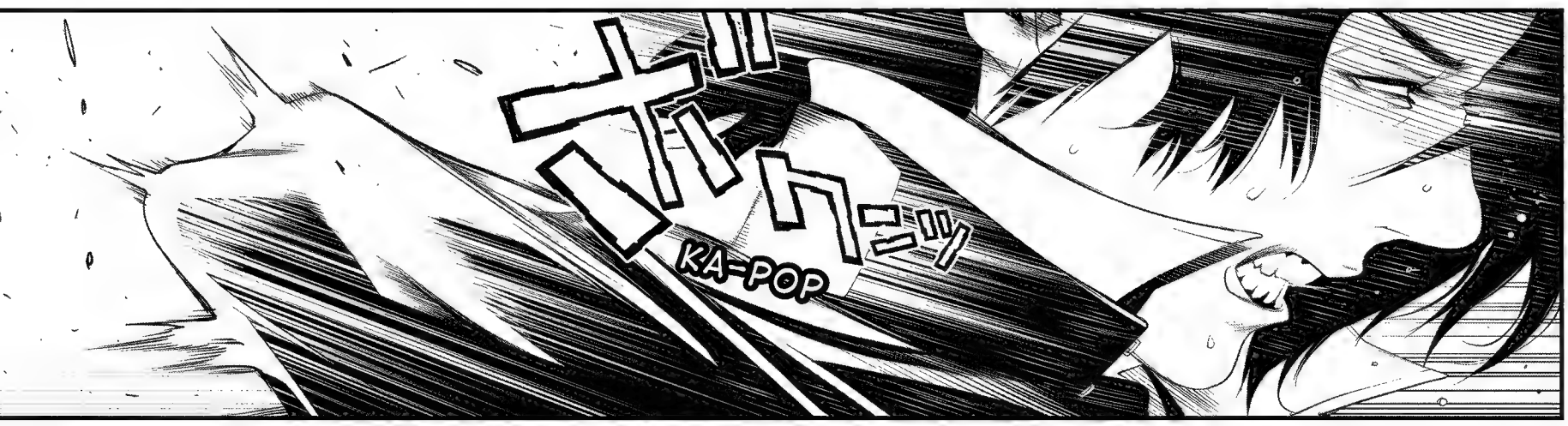
But...

Kan-baru.

Not only that, I've also *driven her* into this narrow passage to make it easier to read the trajectory of her punches ...!!








It's docking time.

GCHHT

SGWRRRK

!!

GSSHT

KA-KRAK

A hold that only I can pull off...

...thanks to my vampiric healing abilities.

That should do it.

Now she's... immobile.

Sorry, Kan-baru.

THOOMP

YE

THOOMP

BOOM

THOOMP

THWAK

THWAK

THOOM

KRAK

GSST

I can't just win.

My mission is to do so overwhelmingly.

That said, kicking Kanbaru with everything I have now is going to split her in two.

I need the devil to cry uncle and scrap the contract.

THWAK

THWAK

*This is practically torture, it might as well be Suruga-toi! I don't enjoy doing this...!!*

*Hurry up and leave, Rainy Devil!!*

*Dammit...! It's hard to know how much to put into these... Do I still need to keep going?*

THWAK

THWAK

THWAK

PA-KREEEEEE

SLUMP

Hold on... wait... that was ...!!

UGH ...?!

...

Huh ...? That...

THOOMP

BCCHT

It wasn't her left arm—it was her leg.

...

Is that... what's going on here,

Kan-baru?

ポタッ

DRIP DRIP

Is Kanbaru not in a trance—the way she was yesterday?

No, wait...

...were her attacks now and even yesterday... all of her own will...?!

...

...?!

I don't need this arm.

S-Stop it. You're being ridiculous!!

I could never. What about basketball?!

I know it's a hassle, but I beg you. I can't cut off my own arm...

Please, just cut it off. I want you to sever it. I beg you. Please.

I tried to kill another human being. I think it's only fair.

It's like Mister Oshino just said.

Don't be stupid. What're you thinking? You're an idiot, a real idiot. How can you take an idea like that seriously?

A-Anyway, there's no way we're cutting it off.

N-No... Really, Kan-baru. I don't mind at all—

It wasn't about whether I minded or not.

CHRP キチ CHRP キチ CHRP キチ CHRP キチ CHRP キチ CHRP キチ CHRP キチ

BZZZZ

The words came from my own mouth... but how far from the point could I get?

Laugh-able. Clown-ish.

CHRP キチ CHRP キチ CHRP キチ CHRP キチ CHRP キチ CHRP キチ CHRP キチ

BZZZZ

The reason her "left hand" couldn't kill her grade school classmates during her first wish

*was because Kanbaru couldn't kill them.*

As for the Rainy Devil that tried to kill me,

until yesterday, Kanbaru had done everything she could to hold it back with her iron will.

And so that is the rea-son.

IT'S WHY SURUGA KANBARU CAN'T FORGIVE HERSELF.

A TRAIN ?!

You're going to make me cry now!!

Don't say stuff like that!

I'll think of a way on my own. I'm sure it can be done with the help of a car or a train.

Ah... You're right. That's not something to impose on someone else.

It's fine now,

Ara-ragi.

I don't mind.

W-

Well, I do!

How could I not? What are you saying?!

And... what about Senjogahara? What're you going to do about her?!

I'm done.

I'm done with her, too.

With Senjo-gahara.

It's fine. I'll give up.

...a devil of falling rain.

The Rainy Devil is...

And a weepy devil at that.

*But... I love her...*

*I should go home... and apologize...*

*Who cares about mother—I hate her.*

As to what exactly attacked the child... Well, there are various theories.
The standard theory says it was a pack of wild monkeys, but there aren't any monkeys in Europe.
So an ape-like human, which is to say...

A beast in human skin who must have been described as a monkey.
A thrill killer.

That is the origin of the Rainy Devil.

Only the neatly removed skin of the girl was found, left in a church.

Yes, like a raincoat left hanging on the eaves of a house.

DRIP

DRIP

Who knows.

It couldn't return home... so it does this out of spite?

So then why does this devil try to grant wishes?

PLAY WITH A DEVIL, BECOME A DEVIL.

Maybe it's lonely?

Lonely ...

...

The only thing we share is that pain.

Maybe it's presumptuous of me to say this, but... I understand.

I understand it so well that it pains me, Kanbaru.

We bear the same kind of pain.

We throw everything away and give up on it all.

Kanbaru, there's a gaping void in you.

And you've stuffed your tiny body with all kinds of things to fill it, haven't you?

If she wants to cut it off, there is a good way.

Why don't you tell her?

TWITCH

A heart under her blade —

just borrow Shinobu's prized sword.

Use the aberration-slaying enchanted sword *Kokoro-watari.*

Use that and there won't even be time for Missy to feel any pain.

You can cut her ties to that devil as easy as you'd slice tofu.

The Monkey's Paw

In the original "The Monkey's Paw," the first person who used it...

...wished for death with their third wish.

...I need to explain the full significance of that, do I?

I don't think...

No.

This is ...

We are ...

But it's different.

Oshino, what you're saying is right.

The case of your aberration over spring break is *completely different* from Missy's case.

Differ-ent?

...I guess so.

You didn't wish upon an aberration.

I'm sorry

I'm sorry

Save me

Save me

Save me!

Save me!

You and Missy are different, Araragi.

The one answering the call... was you.

So,

you don't understand how she feels.

Not her remorse or her regret.

Or at least that's what Oshino seemed to imply.

that goes for more than just Kanbaru.

And maybe

Not in the slight-est.

The snail, too.

And the cat.

Ha haa.

Even the crab.

Something that was wished for was given,

so I'm saying that the opposite can happen, too.

It's an equivalent exchange.

If something is given...

...something must be taken away.

It's not up to you to decide what they give back to you.

That responsibility lies with the giver, Araragi.

No...

No...!!

...

Continued in Volume 6

Next Volume Preview
The two find themselves facing their irreconcilable differences.
Their strained skirmish continues and there's nowhere to run.
BAKEMONOGATARI 6
COMING FALL 2020!
All while Suruga's true feelings drill into Koyomi's heart.
Suruga Monkey reaches its conclusion.
BOOM

# BAKEMONOGATARI

## volume 5

A Vertical Comics Edition

Editing: Kristi Fernandez
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